

Sonja has been a local civic and political leader in her own right and was the first woman to be honored with a Golden Door Award by Cleveland's Nationality Services Center for her dedication as a social worker and interpreter.

In January 2004, the USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia will honor Paul Unger with the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award, which recognizes Americans who have made exceptional contributions to international development through volunteerism. I congratulate Mr. Unger for all his work at home and abroad and express my thanks to him and to his wife Sonja for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to democracy in Croatia.●

HONORING DR. DONALD PINKEL AND PROFESSOR DR. HANSJÖRG RIEHM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to pay homage to the remarkable contributions of Dr. Donald Pinkel and Professor Dr. Hansjörg Riehm to the cure of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia, or ALL, once an invariably lethal disease. On December 4, 2003, distinguished colleagues from 12 nations will honor these outstanding physicians in San Diego, CA.

ALL is the most common cancer in children. Forty years ago, very few children were cured. Since that time, the cure rate has improved dramatically. I am informed that thanks in part to the leadership and vision of Dr. Pinkel and Professor Dr. Hansjörg Riehm, about 80 percent of ALL patients are now cured in developed nations. Dr. Pinkel's development of effective presymptomatic central nervous system therapy and Professor Dr. Hansjörg Riehm's development of effective post induction intensification halved the number of relapses and deaths. Tens of thousands of children, their families, friends and neighbors in many countries have benefitted. Dr. Pinkel and Professor Dr. Riehm stand united in their desire that effective therapy be available to children with ALL, both in the developed world and in the developing world.

I am informed that during his years at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the 1960s, Dr. Pinkel introduced the concept of presymptomatic central nervous system therapy and cured one-half of children with ALL. Previously, many children had achieved temporary remission from leukemia, only to suffer return of leukemia or relapse in the central nervous system, subsequent bone marrow relapse, and death. Presymptomatic central nervous system therapy remains a cornerstone of ALL therapy throughout the world.

Professor Dr. Hansjörg Riehm and his colleagues in the Berlin Frankfurt Münster Group introduced effective postinduction intensification in the late 1970s. This concept involves implementing stronger therapy after the pa-

tient is in remission. Previously, patients received brief intensive induction therapy followed by presymptomatic central nervous system therapy and prolonged mild maintenance therapy. Most patients achieved remission, but many suffered leukemic relapse and death. With application of effective post induction intensification, the number of relapses fell and the chance for cure increased. Professor Riehm's strategy of post induction intensification has been applied throughout the world with similar success.

We know how tragic it is when children and their families struggle with life-threatening disease. The dramatic improvement in the cure rate of ALL gives children and those who cherish them just cause for greater hope. Literally tens of thousands of children in many nations have survived and grown up to realize their hopes and dreams due to the remarkable contributions of Dr. Pinkel and Professor Dr. Riehm. I am certain that children's lives are ample thanks, but I would like to add California's thanks for these physicians' lifetimes of accomplishments. Our Nation and world are fortunate to have benefitted from their work.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 117. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain land in the State of Florida, and for other purposes;

S. 286. An act to revise and extend the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998;

S. 650. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the Food and Drug Administration to require certain research into drugs used in pediatric patients;

S. 1685. An act to extend and expand the basic pilot program for employment eligibility verification, and for other purposes; and

S. 1720. An act to provide for Federal court proceedings in Plano, Texas.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" and urging support for epilepsy research and service programs.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bills and joint resolution in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 421. An act to reauthorize the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1006. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species;

H.R. 2218. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of all contact lenses as medical devices, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2420. An act to improve transparency relating to the fees and costs that mutual fund investors incur and to improve corporate governance of mutual funds;

H.R. 3140. An act to provide for availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3491. An act to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and for other purposes; and

H.J. Res. 78. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979;

H. Con. Res. 288. Concurrent resolution honoring Seeds of Peace for its promotion of understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict; and

H. Con. Res. 320. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of motorsports.

The message further announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2417) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

At 6:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2297) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agree to the amendments of the Senate to the resolution (H.J. Res. 63) to approve the "Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia", and the "Compact of Free Association, as